

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- U.S. POLICY IN MIDEAST

1. FOLLOWING FLESHES OUT SEPTTEL ON MARCH 25 BEIRUT PRESS
WITH EDITORIAL EXCERPTS FOR MEDIA REACTION PURPOSES.

2. MICHAEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT
"AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "SINGLE MERIT
OF PRESIDENT FORD'S AND DR. KISSINGER'S STEPS... IS THAT
THEY CONSTITUTE AMERICA'S RECOGNITION THAT ISRAEL IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE OF PEACE EFFORTS... IT CAN BE
SAID THAT THEIR STEPS INDICATE THAT AMERICA IS READY TO
SHOULDER ITS REPONSIBILITIES, WILLINGLY OR NOT... BUT
IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ARABS... TO ATTACK WHAT AMERICA HAS
OR HAS NOT DONE. THEY MUST PROVE THAT THEY CAN
INFLECT HARM UPON IT IF IT DOES NOT DO SOMETHING TANGIBLE
AND SWIFT... AS TEST OF HOW SERIOUS ITS REVIEW OF
ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL IS TO BE. WHOLE WORLD KNOWS THAT, IF
AMERICA WERE TO SAY TO ISRAEL: 'NO BULLETS AND NO DOLLARS',
ISRAEL COULD NOT RESIST FOR LONG."

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3. ABD AL-KARIM ABU AN-NASR, FOREIGN EDITOR OF LEADING

INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES: "AMERICA IS IN FACT RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE OF PEACE EFFORTS... WERE AMERICA TRULY EAGER FOR TRUE PEACE, IT WOULD HAVE PUT MEANINGFUL PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT EGYPT'S HAVING TO PAY POLITICAL PRICE... GENEVA CONFERENCE CAN ACHIEVE NOTHIN...IF AMERICA DOES NOT CHANGE ITS MIDEAST POLICY AND BEGIN TO RECOGNIZE PLO. AND IF WASHINGTON DOES NOT CHANGE ITS POLICY RADICALLY, THEN IT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DETERIORATION THAT MAY OCCUR IN REGION."

4. ELIAS BADAU, COLUMNIST OF LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR", WRITES: "IT WAS CLEAR FROM BEGINNING OF KISSINGER'S LAST ROUND THAT HIS EFFORTS WERE GOING TOWARD DEAD END. THIS WAS FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, HIS GOVERNMENT'S FRANK CONFIRMATION THAT IT COULD NOT PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL... SECOND, HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROVISION OF HUGE QUANTITIES OF LATEST WEAPONS... U.S.A. BEARS GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISRAELI ATTITUDE... WHAT NOW...? FIRST THOUGHT THAT COMES TO MIND IS TO HEAD FOR GENEVA, BUT POSSILILITIES OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL REMAIN VERY LIMITED AS LONG AS ISRAEL REJECTS PEACE GUARANTEED BY AMERICA... IT IS IMPORTANT THAT KISSINGER'S PROTRACTED EFFORTS... NOT LEAD TO ANY DIVISION OF ARAB FRONT... UNSUCCESSFUL AMERICAN EFFORTS HAVE AGAIN CONFIRMED SOUNDNESS OF EGYPT'S POSITION."

5. MUHAMMAD ANNAN, RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR OF PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT", WRITES: "ALL THAT IS ASKED OF WHITE HOUSE IS TO MAKE ISRAEL UNDERSTAND ITS ERROR... TAKE STEPS TO DETER TEL AVIV EFFECTIVELY, AND THEN MOVE TO FORCE IT TO ENTER GENEVA TALKS QUICKLY ON BASIS OF... ITS READINESS TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY... AND OF ITS OPEN RECOGNITION OF FULL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, AMERICA AND WHITE HOUSE HAVE ONLY TO WAIT FOR FEARSOME EXPLOSION... FOR WHICH AMERICA WILL BE FIRST AND LAST ONE TO BLAME."

6 NAYIF SHUBLAQ, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR", WRITES: "KISSINGER'S PROBLEM... IS THAT OF AMERICA ITSELF. AMERICA REFUSES TO PRESSURE ITS STOOGES, ISRAEL. QUITE THE CONTRARY, IT GRANTS IT MORE AND MORE ARMS EVERY DAY... IF U.S. WANTS TO GO TO GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH THIS MENTALITY, WE SEE NO REASON TO HOLD UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS CONFERENCE AT ALL. IF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT READY TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE RADICALLY AND PUT REAL, EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL...THEN GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL ONLY BE WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT. KEY TO ISRAEL'S POSITION WAS AND REMAINS IN WASHINGTON'S HANDS."

7 ALBER T FARHAT, COLUMNIST OF PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "AN-NIDA", WTIRES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAAL:

"KISSINGER'S FAILURE WAS BEFORE ALL ELSE FAILURE OF IMPERIALIST AMERICAN ATTEMPTS... TO FREEZE CONFLICT IN AREA SO AS TO REINTRODUCE AMERICAN INFLUENCE INTO IT BY ISOLATING EGYPT... AND SYRIA..., ENCIRCLING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE..., FORCING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE STAND HUMILIATED BEFORE KING HUSSEIN, AND STRIKING SOVIET-ARAB FRIENDSHIP.... THIS DEFEAT IS ALSO THAT OF FORCES THAT HAD BEN ON AMERICA'S 'GOOD INTENTIONS' ... AND BELIEVED THAT 'KEY TO SETTLEMENT' WAS IN WASHINGTON'S HANDS... FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S PRESENT MISSION IS VICTORY FOR ARAB NATIONALISTS AND PROGRESSIVES, WHO HAVE BEEN WARNING FROM BEGINNING THAT POLICY OF BETTING ON AMERICA'S 'CONSTRUCTIVE' ROLE... WOULD WEAKEN EGYPT AND ENCOURAGE U.S. AND ISRAEL TO DEMAND MORE AND MORE."

8. IBRAHIM 'AMIR, COLUMNIST OF PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR", WRITES:
" WE CANNOT LET MUSTAFA AMIN'S...POISONED PHRSES IN HIS ARTICLE 'FAILURE IS DEFEAT FOR AMERICA' PASS WITHOUT COMMENT... HE MEQNS TO SAY THAT NEITHER AMERICANS, NOR ISRAELIS, NOR AMERICANIZED ARAB KISSINGERITES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED. WORKERS OF AL-MAHALLA AL-KUBRA ARE RSPONSIBLE, FOR ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE SIGNED KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THEIR 'SABOTAGE'..."
GODLEY

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